(ii) Introduction of Exotic White Shrimp (Litopenaeus Vannamei) in Indian Aquaculture including setting up a Quarantine Facility and Nauplii Production Centre at Neelankarai in Chennai by Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture (RGCA) of MPEDA in collaboration with NFDB.

(iii) Supply of disease free nauplii to farmers through the RGCA production facility.

(iv) Setting up disease diagnostic laboratories for identifying pathogens through polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) method.

(v) Assistance to hatcheries for establishing PCR laboratories.

(vi) Modernization of existing fishing harbours, fish landing centres, processing units and fish dressing centres.

Foodgrain production

2035.SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any average increase in agricultural production in foodgrain crops and non foodgrain crops during 2003-08;

(b) if so, the details including production and rate of growth of foodgrain crops and non foodgrain crops for last three years, year-wise, crop-wise, foodgrain-wise, non foodgrain-wise and category-wise;

(c) whether inflation in the first quarter of 2008-09 is related to above agricultural out put;

(d) if so, the steps taken to contain the above; and

(e) the steps taken to increase production of foodgrain crop?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) As per 4th Advance Estimates for 2007-08 released on 9th July 2008, the agricultural production in foodgrain crops during the period 2003-08 followed increasing trend whereas the production of non foodgrain crops during the above period has been fluctuating.

Following table gives the production and growth rate of foodgrain crops and non foodgrain crops during the last three years, *i.e.*, 2005-06 to 2007-08:

Crop	Production (Million Tonnes)			Rate of Growth (%)		
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08*	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Rice	91.8	93.4	96.43	10.42	1.70	3.29
Wheat	69.4	75.8	78.40	1.05	9.30	3.42
Coarse Cereals	34.1	33.9	40.73	1.81	-0.43	20.07
Pulses	13.4	14.2	15.11	1.94	6.07	6.43
Foodgrains	208.6	217.3	230.67	5.16	4.16	6.16

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Groundnut	8.0	4.9	9.36	17.99	-39.16	92.52
Rapeseed & Mustard	8.1	7.4	5.80	7.09	8.53	-21.98
Soyabean	8.3	8.9	9.99	20.32	6.98	12.83
Oilseeds	28.0	24.3	28.83	14.88	-13.18	18.67
Sugarcane	281.2	355.5	340.56	18.59	26.44	-4.21
Cotton #	18.5	22.6	25.81	12.60	22.34	14.03
Jute & Mesta ##	10.8	11.3	11.18	5.52	4.00	-0.86

*4th Advance Estimates released on 09.07.2008

Production in million bales of 170 kg each

Production in million bales of 180 kg each

(c) and (d) The inflation under food articles during the 1st quarter (April-June) of 2008 was ranging between 5.59% to 5.94% as against the inflation of 10.96% to 17.13% in the non food articles with general rate of inflation ranging between 8.04% to 11.82%. Thus, the rate of inflation in food articles in the 1st quarter of 2008-09 was significantly lower than that in the non food articles.

However, in order to contain the price rise in food articles, broadly the following steps have been taken by the Government:-

(i) Reducing import duty to zero for rice, wheat, pulses, edible oils (crude), maize, butter and ghee.

(ii) Reducing import duty on refined, hydrogenated and vegetable oils to 7.5%.

(iii) Banning exports of non-basmati rice, wheat, selected edible oils and pulses.

(iv) Imposing stock limit orders in case of paddy, rice, wheat, edible oils and oilseeds.

(v) Reduction on import duty of skimmed milk powder from 15% to 5%.

(vi) Using Minimum Export Price (MEP) to regulate export of onion and basmati rice.

(vii) Maintaining Central Issue Price (CIP) for rice and wheat for Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojna (AYY).

(viii) Reduction in the prices of petrol and diesel respectively by Rs. 5 and Rs. 2 per liter.

(ix) Distribution of edible oils at a subsidy @ of Rs. 15 per kg. to ration card holders through Public Distribution System (PDS).

(e) To increase the production of cereals in the country, the Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) in rice, wheat and coarse cereals based cropping systems have been under implementation since October 2000.

In order to further increase the production of rice, wheat and pulses, the Government has launched National Food Security Mission (NFSM) from Rabi 2007-08. The NFSM aims at increasing

the production of rice by 10 million tonnes, wheat by 8 million tonnes and pulses by 2 million tonnes in the targeted districts of the country, by the end of the 11th Plan *i.e.* 2011-2012.

To increase the production of pulses, a centrally sponsored "Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize" (ISOPOM) is also under implementation with effect from 01.04.2004 in 14 major pulses growing States in the country. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seeds, production of foundation and certified seeds, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of plant protection chemicals and equipments, weedicides, distribution of sprinkler sets, water carrying pipes and training to encourage farmers to grow these crops.

Central assistance for relief

2036.SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Karnataka has submitted two memoranda in September this year for Central assistance for drought relief and for relief and emergent work necessitated due to floods;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government thereon and by when the Central assistance is likely to be released and how much in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) In September, 2008, the Government of Karnataka submitted a Memorandum seeking assistance of Rs. 2019.55 crores from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) and 8.45 lakh MTs of foodgrains, for drought relief. An Inter-Ministerial Central Team visited the State from 15th to 18th October, 2008 for assessment of the situation and requirements of Central assistance etc. Further action will be taken in accordance with the procedure in vogue.

Ministry of Home Affairs is concerned with matters relating to floods and necessary information is being collected from them.

Shrinking agricultural land

2037.SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to enact a law to protect the shrinking agricultural land in the country especially due to industrialization and acquisition of land for Special Economic Zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the shrinking cultivable land could lead to heavy shortage of foodgrains thereby threatening food security; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) As per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, Land falls under the purview of State Government, therefore, it for the States to bring suitable legislation to protect the diversion of